



STATE OF OKLAHOMA
DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES
P.O. BOX 36659
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73136

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COMMISSION FOR
REHABILITATION SERVICES
John E. Orr, Chair
Bill Crawford, Vice-Chair
Ernest Simpson, Member

VISUAL SERVICES
3010 S. HARVARD, SUITE 210
TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74114

DEPARTMENT OF
REHABILITATION SERVICES
Jerry Dunlap, Director

January 25, 1996

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 "M" Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Sir:

This letter is in response to MM Docket Number 95-176 concerning the Narrative Television Network and their accessible programming for people who are blind and visually impaired.

I currently work with older people who are blind in Oklahoma through the Department of Rehabilitation Services. Over the years clients have discussed how frustrating it is for them to try to watch television. Not only is it frustrating that they are unable to fully appreciate the program due to lack of vision, but also they have to depend on someone else to explain the scene. Many older people may spend more time at home and seem to depend on television for entertainment. If the person lives alone, then watching television is more effort for them than it is worth.

Through NTN's accessible programming more people are able to enjoy this leisure time activity that we sighted people take for granted. Through the narration a person is able to watch and fully understand an entire program for himself/herself.

I feel that NTN has provided a wonderful service to persons who are blind. I wish them much success in the future and hope their programming will continue to expand and reach the homes of those who would profit by this service.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cheryl McCarroll

Cheryl McCarroll
Older Blind Specialist

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Bill Crawford, Vice-Chair
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3010 S. Harvard, Suite 210
Tulsa, OK 74114
(918) 742-8989

DEPARTMENT OF
REHABILITATION SERVICES
Jerry Dunlap, Director

January 26, 1996

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JAN 30 1996

FCC
Office of the Secretary
1919 M STR, NW
Washington DC 20554

FCC MAIL ROOM

RE: MM Docket #95-176

Dear Sirs:

Equal access is of paramount importance to persons who are blind throughout the country and world. Imagine if you will, that you are blind. How would you access information through the news media. What about watching television shows? Maybe one of your friends or family want you to either watch a movie on TV or go to the movie theater for an evening out with them. The problem you will most likely encounter is that the majority of shows both on TV and at the movies contain so much visual information vital to the plot that you might have some difficulty following the story line. I would challenge you to try this. Maybe tonight, blindfold yourself and turn on your favorite television program. You will probably be amazed how much of the show you miss since you cannot access that information visually. There are millions of individuals across the United States with that exact problem. Many of them are people who have had good vision throughout their life and have always enjoyed a good television program or a good movie. Now that they have become blind, they are lost because one of their primary sources of entertainment has now become limited to them and the level of enjoyment has diminished to the point where they have stopped using video programming for entertainment.

Through the efforts of the Narrative Television Network, many shows have come alive for persons who are blind and visually impaired across the country. These individuals are given verbal information of the visual activity on the screen and thus can enjoy the show or movie to its fullest as they have the information as do sighted individuals. I work in a rehabilitation agency which serves people who are blind and visually impaired and we make it a routine practice to advise them of the services through the Narrative Television Network. Many of our clients have expressed their enjoyment and desire that all shows would be available to them in such a manner.

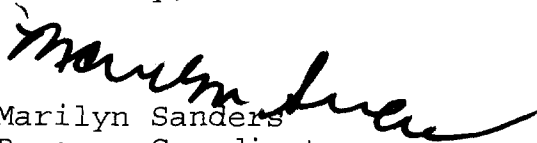
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I am blind myself and have enjoyed the services through the

Narrative Television Network since its inception. It affords me the opportunity to access all the information within that video program and increased my ability to enjoy the show. Additionally, in talking with sighted individuals who also watch the narrated shows, I have learned that they too enjoy the programming as they also can hear the descriptions and pick up on other information that they might have also missed visually. It also relieves them of the feeling of responsibility of being their family member's "interpreter" for that particular show.

I am in full support of the Narrative Television Network. I would encourage you to also support them in expanding their efforts to provide us with equal access to various types of video programming.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marilyn Sanders", written over the typed name.

Marilyn Sanders
Program Coordinator